

# Texas governor announces the launch of Meth Watch

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Texas Gov. Rick Perry announced the launch of the Meth Watch program in the Lone Star State Oct. 26. The pilot program will cover 26 east Texas counties through a grant to the East Texas Council of Governments. The governor traveled to Tyler, TX to announce the state's effort in finding community solutions to reduce the methamphetamine problem. State elected officials, law enforcement, and the retail community were among those on hand to offer their support for the initiative.

The Consumer Healthcare Products Association's (CHPA) Meth Watch program, now adopted in eight states through a trademark licensing arrangement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Meth Watch Program, has gained a great deal of momentum as other states look for ways to address the methamphetamine problem at the community level.

Kansas began its Meth Watch Program in Oct. 2001 to combat the manufacturing of meth in its communities. Since that beginning Kansas has assisted almost two dozen states with assistance ranging from implementing a similar program to providing technical assistance. The program has even crossed the border into Canada with assistance.

"Like a good neighborhood watch program, the mere presence of the Meth Watch program can act as a strong deterrent to methamphetamine producers and dealers," Perry said. "By empowering east Texans with knowledge, they will be able to help law enforcement find homemade meth labs and help get this dangerous drug off our streets."

The governor was joined by Sheriff Steve Bundy of Rice County, KS, who offered his support for the state's efforts while sharing his county's personal experiences and success stories with the Meth Watch program.

Bundy noted, "implementing programs like Meth Watch and putting resources into education, prevention, and demand reduction is one of the best ways to address the meth problem in our communities."

At the event, Gov. Perry announced a \$50,000 grant to help establish the Meth Watch pilot program in east Texas, and indicated the state's intentions to apply for additional funding through CHPA's Meth Watch grant process in an effort to expand the program statewide.



**Texas Governor Rick Perry shares his plans for implementation of the Meth Watch program in his state while local law enforcement looks on.**